

### CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-12, 22 and 23 (Cancelled).

13. (Previously presented). A papermaking screenplate comprising an assembly of elongate strips, a plurality of spacer cross bars located between adjacent strips to define open ended slots between the assembly of strips, the slots having a width, the spacer cross bars having a thickness defining the width of slots between adjacent strips, the spacer cross bars having a length less than four times their width, the spacer cross bars in an assembled screenplate being separated from each other at intervals approximately equal to two to twenty times the length of spacer cross bar, and the screenplate having an open area of up to 27%.

14. (Currently amended). A method of constructing a screenplate for screening devices, the screenplate utilizing a plurality of strips having generally parallel side edges defining a screenplate surface and a plurality of preformed spacers defining slots having a width, the spacers having a thickness ~~approximately equal to~~ the same

as the width of slots, the spacers being elongate with open areas through the screenplate surface and with the open areas wider than the strips, comprising the steps of:

- a. assembling an alternating stack of strips and spacers to define intercontacting surfaces,
- e. aligning the strips and spacers with the strips positioned relative to the spacers with each open area of the spacers having a spacer portion extending past each side edge of the strips,
- c. metallurgically bonding the strips and spacers at their intercontacting surfaces, and
- d. trimming away the spacer portion extending past the side edges of the strips.

15. (Previously presented). A method of constructing a screenplate for pulp and papermaking screening devices utilizing a plurality of strips having a width and having generally parallel side edges, a plurality of spacers having a width greater than the width of the strips, the spacers being elongate with open areas through the surface and with the open areas wider than the strips, comprising the steps of:

- a. assembling an alternating stack of strips and spacers

to define intercontacting surfaces,

b. aligning the strips and spacers with the strips positioned centrally of the spacers with each open area of the spacers having a portion extending past each side edge of the strips,

c. metallurgically bonding the strips and spacers at their intercontacting surfaces, and

d. trimming away the spacer portion extending past the side edges of the strips.

16. (Currently amended). A screenplate having slots of selected width for screening devices comprising a plurality of elongate strips having a width and having side edges, a plurality of elongate spacers having a thickness equal to the width of slots in the screenplate, the spacers having a width equal to the width of strips and a length less than four times the width of spacers, and the spacers being separated from each other at intervals ~~approximately~~ of two to twenty times the length of spacer, the strips and spacers being metallurgically bonded at intercontacting surfaces, and the screenplate having an open area of up to 27%.

17. (Previously presented). A manufacturing preform for a screenplate having slots of select width for screening devices comprising a plurality of elongate strips having side edges, a plurality of elongate spacers located between strips and having a thickness equal to the width of slots in the screenplate, the spacers having a plurality of open areas defined by sidepieces joined by cross bars, the strips and spacers arranged alternately in a stack to define intercontacting surfaces with the strips aligned centrally of the spacers so that a portion of the open areas of the spacers extends beyond the side edges of the strips, and the intercontacting surfaces of the strips and spacers being metallurgically bonded, and whereby a screenplate is formed by trimming away the sidepieces at the side edges of the strips.

18. (Previously presented). A screen cylinder having a side wall screenplate with slots having a width and with the slots parallel to the cylinder axis comprising a plurality of elongate strips having a width and having side edges, a plurality of elongate spacers having a thickness equal to the width of slots in the screenplate, the strips and spacers arranged alternately in a stack to define

intercontacting surfaces, the spacers having a width equal to the width of strips and a length less than four times the width of spacers, and the spacers being separated from each other at intervals two to ten times the length of spacer, the strips and spacers being metallurgically bonded at intercontacting surfaces and the screen cylinder having a slot open area of up to 27%.

19. (Original). A screen cylinder as defined in claim 18 further having profile bars forming part of the cylinder side wall.

20. (Original). A screen cylinder as defined in claim 19 in which the cylinder sidewall comprises sections of between two to twenty slots in width, and further wherein the sections are separated by the profile bars.

21. (Previously presented). A screenplate having slots of selected width for screening devices comprising a plurality of elongate strips having a width and having side edges, a plurality of elongate spacers having a thickness equal to the width of slots in the screenplate, the strips and spacers arranged alternately in a stack to define

intercontacting surfaces, the spacers having a width equal to the width of strips and a length less than four times the width of spacers, and the spacers being separated from each other at intervals two to ten times the length of spacer, the strips and spacers being metallurgically bonded at intercontacting surfaces, and the screenplate having an open area of up to 27%.